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BCStats

Infoline

Contact: bcstats.infoline@gov.bc.ca Issue: 10-37 September 17, 2010

- **BC's manufacturers see shipments sag 2.9% in July**
- **New motor vehicle sales up 2.3% in July**
- **Full-time undergraduate studies in BC cost 2.0% more in 2010/2011**

The Economy

- **Manufacturers in British Columbia experienced a 2.9% (*seasonally adjusted*) drop in sales in July.** The lion's share of the decline was due to a sharp (-11.5%) downturn in shipments by manufacturers of paper products. Weaker sales by furniture makers (-16.8%) and transportation equipment producers (-8.0%) also contributed to the overall drop.

  Nationally, manufacturers saw sales shrink 0.9% in July with decreases in three main sectors: furniture (-10.7%), motor vehicles (-8.0%) and paper products (-5.5%). Sales were down in five provinces, most notably Saskatchewan (-3.8%), Quebec (-2.9%) and British Columbia. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

- **The number of new motor vehicles sold in British Columbia rose 2.3% (*seasonally adjusted*) in July, the largest increase registered since October 2009.** Sales of North American-built trucks jumped 7.3% and were responsible for most of the increase recorded during the month. North American passenger car sales were also up, rising 3.5% in July.

  Nationally, new motor vehicle sales advanced 2.4% in July with eight provinces registering increases. New Brunswick (+6.2%), Ontario (+4.0%) and Quebec (+3.9%) posted the most significant gains. Sales in Nova Scotia tumbled 16.3%, countering the strong growth of the previous month. On July 1, Nova Scotia's Harmonized Sales Tax increased by 2.0 percentage points to 15%, which may explain the month-over-month turnaround. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

Changing Social Trends

- **Since 1981, both education and marriage trends among Canadian women have shifted considerably.** In 1981, for every 100 women with a university degree there were 157 men with an equal level of education. By 2006, however, that had changed to where the corresponding ratio was 100 women to 84 men.

  Historically, female university graduates were less likely to marry than less-educated women. This is evidenced by the fact that in 1981, 65% of women aged 25 to 49 years with a degree were married compared to 76% of less-educated women in the same age group. By 2006, while the rate of marriage had dropped considerably for women in both groups, women with a degree were more likely (57%) than those without a degree (53%) to be married. The share of women that had entered into common-law relationships quadrupled between 1981 (4%) and 2006 (16%). However, this type of living-arrangement was slightly less popular among women with a university education (13%) compared with those women who were less-educated (16%). *Data Source: SC Cat. no. 11-008-X*

Health

- **The five-year relative survival ratio for those diagnosed with some form of cancer between 2004 and 2006 was 62%.** Looking at different types of cancer, five-year survival

Report

A Broader Measure of Unemployment in British Columbia

Did you know...

Nearly one quarter (23%) of British Columbians have been the victim of unauthorized credit card charges as a result of an offer accepted over the phone or on the internet.

Data Source: Ipsos Reid

ratios ranged from as low as 6% for pancreatic cancer to as high as 98% for thyroid cancer. Other cancers that were characterized by high five-year survival ratios included prostate (96%), testicular (95%), skin (89%) and breast (88%). Those cancers with poor five-year survival ratios included lung (16%) and esophageal (13%).

For most cancers, survival ratios were markedly higher at younger ages. Those diagnosed with cancer of the brain had a five-year survival ratio of 58% for those aged 15 to 44, compared with 9% aged 65 to 74 and just 4% for those aged 75 to 99.

Data Source: SC Cat. no. 82-003-X

Education

- **Canadian full-time students entering into undergraduate studies in British Columbia faced a 2.0% hike in average tuition, from $4,706 to $4,802 in 2010/2011.** Those taking graduate level studies also had to pay more with tuition rising from $6,230 to $6,353. In contrast, compulsory fees charged (excluding tuition) fell sharply (-12.0%) in 2010/2011.

Data Source: Statistics Canada

- **Nation-wide, Canadians attending full-time undergraduate studies paid 4.0% more for tuition in 2010/2011.** On average, undergraduates paid $5,138 in 2010/2011. The largest increases in undergraduate tuition fees were posted in Ontario (+5.4%), Manitoba (+5.3%) and Saskatchewan (+5.0%). Both Newfoundland and Labrador and New Brunswick kept undergraduate tuition fees constant, while Nova Scotia reduced tuition fees considerably (-4.5%).

  Undergraduate fees in dentistry ($14,701) and medicine ($10,244) remained the most expensive. However, the program areas that registered the largest increases in undergraduate tuition in 2010/2011 were architecture (+6.5%) and law (+5.7%).

Data Source: Statistics Canada

Aboriginal Language

- **Among Aboriginal children aged 2 to 5 years living off reserve, roughly 20% understood an Aboriginal language in 2006.** However, just 10% used an Aboriginal language as their primary language at home.

  Many factors contributed to a child's understanding of an Aboriginal language. Not surprisingly, those with daily exposure were more likely (6.6 times) to understand an Aboriginal language than those without. Other factors included enrolment in a childcare program where an Aboriginal language was used (3.7 times), having parents under the age of 25 (4.8 times) and having registered Indian status (2.1 times).

Data Source: SC Cat. no. 11-008-X

Freshwater Supply and Demand

- **In 2005, Canadians used approximately 42 cubic kilometres of water from the environment, just 1.2% of the total average freshwater yield.** More than 90% went to support economic activity, particularly for use in thermal-electric generation, which consumed two-thirds of the total amount of water used. The second largest consumer of freshwater was the manufacturing sector using nearly 6 cubic kilometres.

  The country's residential sector was responsible for using just under 4 cubic kilometres (320 litres per day) of freshwater in 2005. This amount includes the volume of water used to cook, drink, bathe and water lawns/gardens.

  Overall, Canada's average renewable freshwater supply[1] is estimated to be 3,470 cubic kilometres per year. That amount of water is nearly equivalent to the volume of freshwater that fills Lake Huron.

Data Source: SC Cat. no. 16-201-X

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[1] the volume of water that supplies aquifers and/or surface water bodies that is replenished in an average year by precipitation

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originally published in:
Earnings and Employment Trends, Issue:10-07

A Broader Measure of Unemployment in British Columbia

Introduction

While the unemployment rate is a commonly used indicator of overall labour market and economic conditions, it is somewhat limited in terms of capturing the underutilization of labour in the economy. One of the primary limitations of the unemployment rate is that it excludes discouraged workers (i.e., persons who cannot find a job and have given up looking for work). A second important limitation of the unemployment rate is that it does not account for underemployment (i.e., persons employed part-time who want to be employed full-time).

These limitations can be addressed by employing a broader measure of labour underutilization. In this article, we create an alternative measure of labour underutilization that is similar to the U-6 measure published by the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics[1]. We then examine how this measure compares with the traditional unemployment rate.

Constructing a broader measure

A broader measure of unemployment that we will refer to as the total labour underutilization rate for B.C. includes:

(i) Unemployed persons (persons who were available for work and were either on temporary layoff, had looked for work in the past four weeks, or had a job to start within the next four weeks);

(ii) Discouraged workers (persons who were available for work and wanted to work but did not look for work because they believed no suitable work was available) ; and

(iii) Involuntary part-time workers (persons who were working part-time because of business conditions or because they could not find full-time work).

The total labour underutilization rate is calculated as the sum of unemployed persons, discouraged workers, and involuntary part-time workers expressed as a percentage of the total labour force[2] plus discouraged workers.

In comparison, the unemployment rate is calculated as the number of unemployed persons expressed as a percentage of the total labour force.

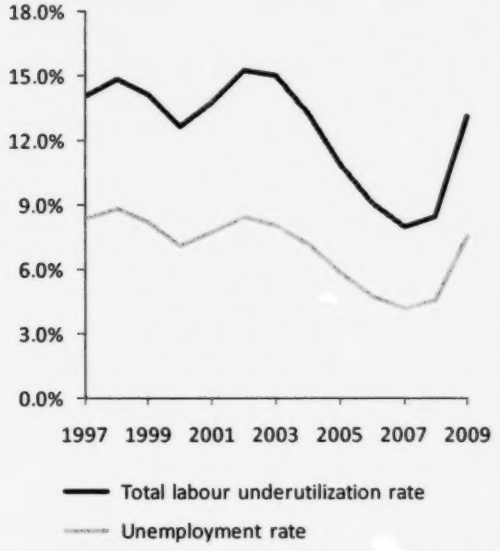
Comparing the two measures

The annual average total labour underutilization rate was 13.1% in 2009, 5.5 percentage points higher than the unemployment rate (7.6%). Most of this difference is attributable to a large number of involuntary part-time workers (131,500 in 2009), as the number of discouraged workers (4,000) is small in relation to the number of unemployed persons (185,900).

[1] A description of the U-6 measure is available at http://www.bls.gov/opub/ils/pdf/opbils67.pdf

[2] The total labour force is the sum of all persons who are employed or unemployed.

In 2009, the total labour underutilization rate was 13.1%; the unemployment rate was 7.6%



Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, 2009

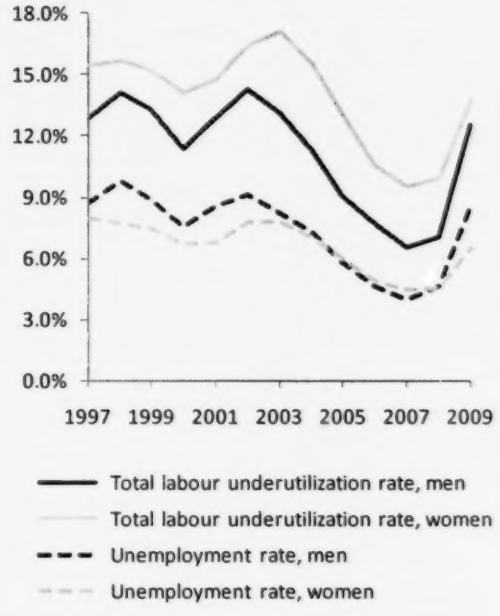
The total labour underutilization rate can be calculated back to 1997; changes to the Labour Force Survey preclude comparisons to earlier years. Since 1997, the total labour underutilization rate has remained roughly four to seven percentage points above the unemployment rate. Although the two rates are highly correlated and move together, they do exhibit some interesting differences.

For example, the total labour underutilization rate appears to be more responsive to changes in labour market conditions, as it is considerably more volatile. Over the time period 1997-2009, the unemployment rate ranged from 4.2% to 8.8%, a difference of 4.6 percentage points (standard deviation=1.6 percentage points). During the same time span, the total labour underutilization rate was considerably more variable, ranging from 8.0% to 15.3%, a difference of 7.3 percentage points (standard deviation=2.5 percentage points).

Choice of measurement affects gender comparisons

In most years between 1997 and 2009, the unemployment rate was higher among men, but the total labour underutilization rate was consistently higher among women. This reversal is primarily attributable to a significantly higher rate of involuntary part-time employment among women. For example, in 2009, 7.6% of employed women reported that they worked part-time because of business conditions or because they could not find full-time work, compared with only 4.2% of employed men.

The total labour underutilization rate is higher among women



Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, 2009

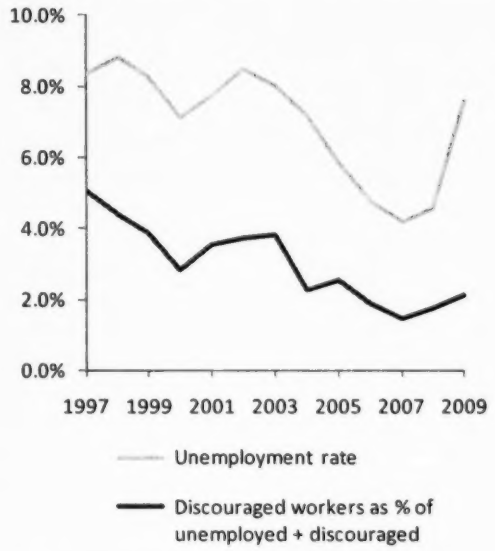
Overall rate of discouragement among those unemployed

While the number of discouraged workers is relatively small (4,000 in 2009) and accounts for only a fraction of the overall difference between the unemployment rate and total labour underutilization rate, trends in the number of discouraged workers yields interesting labour market insights.

An overall rate of discouragement in the labour market can be measured as the number of discouraged workers as a percentage of all persons who are unemployed or discouraged. Since 1997, the rate of discouragement has generally moved in the same direction as the unemployment rate: when the unemployment rate has been high, a relatively large percentage of unemployed persons have become discouraged and stopped looking for work, and when the unemployment rate has been low, fewer persons have become discouraged.

Between 2008 and 2009, the unemployment rate rose 3.0 percentage points (from 4.6% to 7.6%), but the rate of discouragement rose only slightly (from 1.8% to 2.1%). The fact that relatively few unemployed persons became discouraged and stopped looking for work in 2009 may indicate general expectations about the speed of labour market recovery. On the other hand, there might simply be a lag in terms of the time it takes unemployed persons to become discouraged, and the overall rate of discouragement may jump in 2010.

The rate of discouragement was 2.1% in 2009



Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, 2009

Concluding remarks

The unemployment rate remains the official indicator of labour underutilization and is calculated based on concepts and definitions of employment and unemployment that are endorsed by the International Labour Organisation (ILO).

Alternative measures of labour underutilization (including the broader measure that we suggest, the total labour underutilization rate) can yield additional information about labour market conditions and thereby improve our knowledge and understanding of labour supply and labour demand.

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A Public Use Microdata File (PUMF) is a sample of survey responses that are anonymous, primarily non-aggregated, and have been scrutinized for confidentiality. As many variables as possible are provided in order to maintain the analytical value of the file. PUMF users can construct the tables they need, rather than choosing from pre-tabulated information.

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Issue 10–37

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BC at a glance . . .

POPULATION (thousands)	Apr 1/2010	% change on one year ago
BC	4,510.9	1.6
Canada	34,019.0	1.2
GDP and INCOME (Revised Nov 9)		
(BC - at market prices)	2008	% change on one year ago
Gross Domestic Product (GDP) *($ millions)*	197,931	3.3
GDP *($ 2002 millions)*	164,520	0.0
GDP *($ 2002 per Capita) (reflects revised pop)*	37,529	-1.7
Personal Disposable Income *($ 2002 per Capita)*	25,931	3.2
TRADE ($ millions, seasonally adjusted)		% change on prev. month
Manufacturing Shipments - Jul 2010	3,003	-2.9
Merchandise Exports - Jul 2010	2,386	-4.8
Retail Sales - Jun 2010	4,830	-0.3
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX	% change on	12-month avg
(all items - Jul 2010)	one year ago	% change
BC	2.0	0.3
Vancouver	2.5	0.6
Victoria	1.4	0.2
Canada	1.8	1.0
LABOUR FORCE (thousands)		% change on
(seasonally adjusted)	Aug 2010	prev. month
Jobs Created (Lost) - BC NEW!	5.4	
Labour Force - BC	2,502.1	0.0
Employed - BC	2,320.6	0.2
Unemployed - BC	181.5	-3.4
		Jul 2010
Unemployment Rate - BC *(percent)*	7.3	7.5
Unemployment Rate - Canada *(percent)*	8.1	8.0
INTEREST RATES (percent)	Sep 15/2010	Sep 16/2009
Prime Business Rate	3.00	2.25
Conventional Mortgages - 1 year	3.30	3.70
- 5 year	5.39	5.49
US-CANADA EXCHANGE RATE	Sep 15/2010	Sep 16/2009
(avg. noon spot rate) Cdn $ per US $	1.0274	1.0663
(closing rate) US $ per Cdn $	0.9741	0.9391
AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGE RATE		% change on
(industrial aggregate - dollars)	Aug 2010	one year ago
BC	836.22	3.7
Canada	826.47	2.3

SOURCES:

Population, Gross Domestic Product, Trade, Prices, Labour Force, Wage Rate } Statistics Canada

Interest Rates, Exchange Rates: Bank of Canada Weekly Financial Statistics

For latest Weekly Financial Statistics see www.bankofcanada.ca

Open Data

Most data products on our site have long been available PDF format, which behaves nicely for printing but resists extraction of imbedded information. Over the past year most updates to our site have included both PDF and a more open format such as CSV or XLS. We are now revisiting our archive of about12,000 PDF files and producing matching open format versions. **Our entire 1986 to 2006 Census collections are now available in both PDF and XLS**. Look for continued progress through the early Fall.

www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/data/dd/profiles.asp

Labour Force Participation Rate Projections

The model uses an entry-exit rate methodology to project age/sex-specific participation rates by age cohort—i.e., people of the same generation—for the period 2010–2036. This approach, which was pioneered by the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, takes into account the wide differences in participation among cohorts and generates projections that are more plausible than the alternative age group extrapolation approach.

http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/data/lss/labour.asp#pubs

PEOPLE 35 Pop Projection Highlights

PEOPLE 35 (Population Extrapolation for Organizational Planning with Less Error) population projections are now available. This latest population projection covers the period 2010 to 2036, with information available for numerous provincial geographies including Local Health Area, Health Service Delivery Area, Health Authority, School District, College Region, Regional District and Development Region. Access the release article 2036 BC, which provides some PEOPLE35 highlights, or view projection details on our website (total population) or through the webstore (details age/sex projection packages).

www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/data/pop/pop/popproj.asp

Released this week by BC Stats

- No subscription releases

Next week

- Consumer Price Index, August 2010
- Quarterly Regional Statistics, 2nd Quarter 2010

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